

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 11

March - April, 1959

Wonderful Woodens

Wood has always been a preferred media for talented doll artists since ancient times. Some of the earliest doll forms known are wooden sculpture, many, many centuries old. More familiar to today's collector are such wanted types as, Queen Annes, Springfield woodens, and Schoenhut dolls, to name but a few. Many contemporary American doll artists such as Miss Carolyn John and Avis Lee, have chosen woodcarving as a means to give voice to their doll designing abilities.

The reasons behind such a choice are simple. Under skilled hands, a block of wood can literally come to life with grain and texture, helping add character and expression to carved features. Too, it is an enduring material that often even grows in beauty and coloring with age. It is not easily

broken and is equally impervious to the ravages of heat or cold.

Kimport offers quite an extensive group of woodens by modern doll-makers in every part of the globe—Asia, Africa, Europe and Central America. Some are dolls in every sense of the word, with movable limbs and cloth costumes. Others are more accurately solid carvings, but all are collection worthy by the most discriminating of buyers.

Old Hansel of Holland has a marvelously carved character face, combined with authentic Dutch costume, featuring red jacket, black trousers with silver buttons, wooden shoes, and red and black cap perched on the back of his



head. In 8 inch size, he is No. 300B, \$8.50.

From distant Ceylon we obtain this 9½ inch Kandy fisherman, completely made of some strange, light oriental wood with limbs jointed at hip and shoulder. His working garb consists of a sarong-like skirt over knee length trousers, short sleeved blouse, a turban-like headpiece, and his day's catch of tin fish dangling from a net bag in one hand. No. 650C, \$7.50.

The Swiss have always had a reputation of being the finest wood carvers in Europe, and our 10½ inch Trudy of Lucerne certainly bears out that contention! Completely articulated with hip, shoul-



der, knee and elbow joints, her smoothly carved face is lovely and serene. Swivel neck and carved comb marks in her hair are masterful touches, and her costume with big straw hat, gaily bedecked with flowers and ribbon, is completely correct in every detail. Her lace collar, soft bodice, colorful apron yoke, and green braid trimmed skirt make Trudy a striking, as well as authentic, addition to even the most impressive collection. No. 1054, \$14.95.

A 3 inch Japanese Acrobat, dangling from a 5½ inch trapeze is an inexpensive, all-wood and wire toy. Brightly enameled, he will flip-flop and loop the loop as you turn the handle on the cross-bar of his stand. No. 812, priced at just \$1.00.

German woodens include 7 inch peasant folk dressed in a variety of every-day attire. Neatly painted features with bright blue eyes and yarn hair add to their appeal. Man, No. 618 and woman, No. 618A, priced \$4.50 each. Matching little girl in 5 inch size carries a big bunch of felt posies in her arms. Flower Girl is No. 619B, \$3.75.



The Moldavia district of Roumania, near the Russian border, sends an interesting mountaineer couple in 6 inch size. He is dressed Cossack style in white with red sash, brown felt cap and white cape coat with intricate designs painted on it, this hanging debonairly from one shoulder. No.

856, \$3.25. She has black braided yarn hair, embroidery simulated by stencil on scarf, blouse and overskirt, with real leather shoes. No. 856A, \$3.25. Both have bendable wire frames, individual green wooden bases, and round wooden heads, neatly and realistically painted.

Tiny Pinocchio of Italy is an im-pish looking 2½ inch doll in a painted, bright red suit and pointed cap. His pointed nose has already started to grow considerably. No. 764, 35c.



African ebony carvings from Kenya are handcarved by primitive and unschooled tribesmen. These 7 inch, solid carved women have a unique though scanty skirt of silver coils dangling from

a wire belt which incidentally is the only piece of clothing they own! We know you will find them interesting, No. 109A, \$5.95.



Mexico sends highly stylized, 9 inch Margitta, a lathe turned dowel limbed girl, vividly dressed in the national Chino Publano costume of red, white and green. Her black yarn hair falls in two long braids and her smooth face has painted features, definitely done in a moderne style. Feet are square, hands, spoon type, she is No. 352X, \$3.50.

Gray bearded Mr. Papa-San of Korea is a well done, 5½ inch carving, truly representative of the hard-working farmers of this tiny nation. His short, sturdy figure is only slightly bent under the load of his wooden A frame, holding a large flaring woven basket, soon

to be filled with firewood from the forest of produce from his fields. Sharply painted in bright tints of green, blue, yellow and red, he is No. 553, \$3.95.

One of the strangest of all carvings is a smooth, hardwood, solid figure from Tahiti. Arms akimbo, slightly bowed legs and mask-like features, more indicated than shaped, are all quite reminiscent of the unexplained idols of Easter Island. His only clothing is a grass skirt; stock is very limited. No. 563, \$7.50 for 8 inch man of Oceana.

Tanganyika in Central Africa is the home of fierce warrior tribes, but oddly the only carvings we obtain from there are of straight and dignified women or gaunt, stooped old men. Almost grotesque in style, the fine ebony black figures range in size from 9 to 11 inches. Men, No. 108, or women, No. 108A, are \$10.00 each.

AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE! DOLLS NEED DISPLAY STANDS

To look attractive, to keep clean, each doll should have it's own properly adjusted stand. The cost is small; the result: perfect display!

DOLL STAND SIZES AND PRICES

No. 31A Dolls 3 to 5 inches 40c each
No. 31B Dolls 6 to 11 inches 50c each
No. 31BX Tall Holder, 10"-15"

60c each

No. 31C for 12"-17" Dolls \$1.00 each
No. 31D \$1.25 each

Large and Strong, 17"-22"

No. 31E Big Antiques, 22"-30"

\$3.00 each

No. 31F Extra Large 33"-48"

\$4.50 each

BELOVED DOLL AUTHORITY DIES

Mrs. Adeline P. Cole, 93, died at her home, Larch Row, Wenham, Massachusetts, on January 5th. Her wonderful life encompassed many fields of culture and social welfare. Through her doll research at Wenham Museum, classifying the noted International doll bequest, she did helpful service to all collectors. As her friends at Wenham inscribed on a bronze tablet: "Her inspiration and devotion to this community have brought to all, wider horizons and better understanding."

THANKFUL

Little baby girls have been christened all sorts of virtuous names, "Prudence," "Patience," "Mercy," "Faith" and—and—well that third little cherub on the Clan McKim Christmas card is "Merrily!" That is a sort of jolly, adverbial form in honor of her aunt, Marilyn, who at age two informed all inquirers—"I Merrily 'Kim." Such shenanigan nomenclature makes us at Kimport in sweet accord with Mildred Reap's new old Darrow doll's name, "Thankful." Mrs. Reap wrote:

"Since this little darling is the third addition to my family in the past couple of months, I expected my husband to roar like a wounded lion (I was going to say rhinoserion (?) but can't spell it!) I had hoped to broach the subject after a good meal, or something but the eager postman handed this package directly to my husband! For some reason beyond me, this odd old-fashioned doll appealed to him, and I was so thankful that this cute-as-a-button Darrow now carries the name of 'Thankful.'"

"WHAT BECOMES OF DOLLS"

Our Kimport friend, Alma Wolfe, who lives over the Maryland line, had an "Our Side" answer printed in the Evening Star of Washington D.C., for January 7th. It appeared in Marjorie Holmes' Feature Column, "Of Love and Laughter," where Miss Holmes had on December 8th printed her own musings under the sub-head, "What Happened to All Those Dolls from Christmases of Other Years?"

"What becomes of dolls?" asks the father of two daughters. 'Christmas comes, and birthdays—it seems you're always buying them. And friends and relatives give them more. But I just got to wondering—what becomes of them all in the end?' What becomes of dolls? You ponder. Well, there's the 'collection' of course, kept behind glass; character dolls, getting mothly and a little down-at-the-heels, and those non-such, souvenir dolls, some people concoct out of straw, pecans or old golf balls. There are those few survivors in the attic—Dorothy, a lumpy, faded figure made from a flour sack pattern, an original Shirley Temple whose famous curls are matted, and Happy, the clown, bedtime companion of—which boy was it? But whatever became of all the Marys, Susys, Bettys, Raggedy Anns that were so fondly bathed, fed succulent cakes of modeling clay, bundled up so proudly for carriage rides or sometimes left out all night in the rain. Gone, vanished, lost in the mists of living, almost as the little girls who loved them subtly change and vanish in the business of growing up. What becomes of dolls? Often we just don't know. But again, we some-

times do! When we go through toy cupboards with the children, deciding which ones can be parted with, which might actually profit by a new home. When we bundle them into boxes for the Scouts, the firemen, the church or other groups which, by adding a leg, a wig, a touch of paint, a dress, can make them gay as new! What becomes of dolls? The chance sometimes to bring love and laughter into another youngster's heart!"

That was meandering with a good sensible clincher, but Alma, Mrs. Marion R., submitted a few more answers "from a collector's standpoint." Some, or all of this, might come handy when you're making one of those talks we all get called upon to do betimes.

"Have you ever browsed through an antique shop and seen the forlorn little folks of yesteryear sitting among the relics? It is like a visit into the past. When cast adrift from their homes, they often find haven in one of the national doll houses. There they wistfully wait for collectors to find them—people long past the playing stage, but who if possible, love them even more now. Then, of course, there are the very special old dolls who become the royalty of doll-dom and find everlasting glory in museum exhibits. So—what becomes of dolls? The fortunate ones of Christmases past and birthdays long forgotten become the darlings of today's collectors, bringing joy again to both young and old. Yes, dolls may fade away, but never the love for them."

"Betsy Ross left school this morning as Dolly Madison. Guess we will re-write history just for the Arlington Schools. Ha!"

—Lillian McDonald, Va.

LATE ARRIVALS



Kuala Lumpur, capitol of the newly created Republic of Malaya, is the source of these handsomely costumed middle class couples. The man, No. 561, wears a smock-like tunic buttoned at the high collared throat, a swirling sash and Gandhi cap. His spouse, No. 561A, is ever so elegant in soft tinted blouse, metallic split skirt and flowing filmy scarf with flowers in her hair to complete the ensemble.

Nine and a half inches tall, made on bendable frames, with faces and bodies of flesh tinted felt, their cleverly applied features subtly indicate the complicated mixture of Malayan, Chinese, Indian and Arabic blood that is the heritage of this remote Oriental land. He is priced \$8.00; she is \$8.50.



Kinsmen to the Malayan dolls listed above are the Igorots of the Philippine Islands, descendents of the Malay pirates who long ago terrorized Pacific waters. Our all-cloth, 11 inch pair of Island imports are well made representatives of this fierce, one time cannibalistic tribe. Similar in appearance to the American Indian—tall, well built, high cheek boned—the Igorot man, No. 456, is scantily clad in hand-loomed, multicolored G-string and straw pillbox cap set jauntily on one side of his head.

Spear, dagger, brass ear hoops and amulet, complete his accessories. His wife, No. 456A, is somewhat more modestly clad in skirt, sash and jacket of similar woven material, rich with shades of red, blue, yellow, purple and green. A rolled piece of the same fabric forms her headband with shell decorations. Features are neatly painted and the dolls very artistically made. Priced at \$6.00 each—Special, \$11.00 the pair.



Ozark made square dance couple have pipe cleaner limbs, cloth bodies and nut heads with sharp pointed noses. In ideal six inch size, they have individual wooden bases and flexible frames. Dressed in their hill billy party best of pink print dress, blue jeans and ribbon bows, this yarn haired, bare footed Lake of the Ozark couple are No. 68, just \$3.50 for the pair.

Junita, No. 266, is a 7" solidly

stuffed cloth doll from tropical Jamaica. She is an elderly dark skinned woman with a few strands of grey hair showing underneath her bandana and basket of shells. Although barefoot, her dress is a colorful print and her lace edged white apron sports a hand painted design. Just \$2.50.

NO, NOT GEORGIA

So-o—"Johnson" as a surname, does belong to a lot of people; the spelling of "Georgie" as a girl's name is far from common. Mrs. Lloyd Covert writes from Ohio this bit of coincidence: "Our daughter-in-law's name is, Georgie Lee Johnson and I assure you, none could be sweeter!"

Clan McKim o' Kimport could enter as prize competition their Mrs. Georgie Johnson who knows 'most everything about dolls and all the Kimport customers back to 1936.

Mrs. Covert, was your "Georgie" born on Washington's birthday? Ours was.

SHE'S RIGHT

Letters such as this helpful one from Thelma E. Powers encourage us to watch subscription dates more carefully and many of you have been receiving renewal slips with your Doll Talk. We intend to make that a routine practice because we don't want to lose a single subscriber through our failure to prompt or your forgetfulness in responding. As our Oregon friend puts it:

"Too long have I neglected sending in my renewal to Doll Talk. Please start the much enjoyed little magazine again with any back number you wish as I am 'way behind—just want them consecutively."



Our Primer preaching this time is really in response to letters requesting a page or two about types more common and available than Brus and Peddlers! So German Bisques will get the big play this time and please do not make the mistake of belittling the fine ones.

First, a group of heads only, and first of these a plump shouldered bisque beauty by Simon and Halbig. Head is slightly side turned; applied ears are pierced from top of lower lobe to the bottom as on French ladies; dimple in chin, full brown wig, blue eyes are set; tiny teeth modeled in the bisque as part of the upper lip, but coming down to the lower one. Five and a half inches high, four and a half across shoulders. Head No. A966, really beautiful, \$32.50.

Little boy head with faintly modeled hair; 5½ inches high, 4 inches across shoulders, 10½ inches in circumference. This is a delightful "character" baby with two teeth up from his lower lip against the tongue, mouth modeled to a deep opening, but no real opening cut into the bisque. Darkest blue eyes are deep sculptured also, with pin head highlights of white enamel; this tad is truly a fine example of the doll maker's art. By Heubach, with that fan topped fancy trade-mark above D.E.P.—and "Germany." No. A945, \$50.00.

Four more heads, these with girl names incised on their—two on shoulders and two on the heads, are "Lissy," "Alma," "Viola" and "Dolly Dimple." Not all have man-

ufacturer's mark, but all are indicated "Germany." "Lissy" is a blue eyed shoulder head, 6½ inches high, 4¾ inches across shoulders, very smooth complexion with parted lips and teeth; no wig. No. A996, \$12.50.

"Viola," also large, is a socket head who would use a jointed composition body. From her dimpled chin up, 5 inches. Smooth as parian; her large blue eyes have been set and "Vie" does flaunt the loveliest golden curls, real hair, and exactly the hue of her modeled, painted brows. No. A995, \$12.50.

Pretty little "Alma" (so marked) is a shoulder head with four holes for sewing on; dark brown eyes have been set; original pale blond wig has bangs and long ringlets. Three and a half inches high, 2½ across shoulders, parted lips, of course, on this series. No. A951, \$4.95.

"Dolly Dimple"—name swings in a semi-circle under D.E.P. and one letter H above "Germany" and the size No. 7½. This is an interestingly modeled, 5 inch socket head with sleeping brown eyes; deep cushiony dimple in each cheek and open mouth rather smiley. From chin to top of forehead, 4 inches; no wig. No. A997, \$15.00.

And now for some, complete with bodies; let's have sizeable big dolls first, pretty bisques who gave prideful delight to some lucky little girls of the eighteen eighties and nineties, or early in this twentieth century.

"Peachie," on account of her yellow-gold mohair curls and the luscious tint of her voluminous gown—Peachie is 30 inches tall and as perfect as if she'd never been out and played with; 'nary a chipped finger on her swivel

wristed hands! Halbig is teamed with Handwerck on the back of her 6½ inch swivel head. Pierced ears, parted lips and big brown eyes that sleep; recently re-strung, too. Old black stockings and slippers do not show much as her peach lace-and-net over taffeta formal is floor length. Cyclamen velvet girdle and matching velvet flowers in her hair are really artistic touches as are the jet earrings and elaborate styling on the waist section of her dress. No. A998, \$35.00.

Also quite large, 27 inches, "Gretel" has sleeping blue eyes and heavy, darkest brown real hair that swings in a long braid down her back. Re-strung, swivel wrists all perfect like Peachie. Her lovingly made peasant costume is responsible for that "Gretel," laced black velvet bodice lined with scarlet, over a sheer white blouse and full skirt of millefleur print on a black ground. Black slippers and hose, nice underwear, really a charming big doll, "Armand Marseille" marked. No. A985, \$25.00.

Twenty-two inch "Beauty" would have been listed up with those name heads, except she is a very complete, kid bodied girl with dimpled bisque hands; a little finger on one has been broken. Top quality bisque with modeled brows over her big brown eyes, parted lips, but with the teeth deep set and modeled right in with the bisque. By A.M. Original brown hair in splendid condition, and we all loved her cherry-red dress of satin striped wool, all fitted and fashioned with proper old lace trim and styling. Beauty is No. A932, \$24.00.

Same size, 22 inches, but this A.M. is a lady with up-done hair and the body is jointed, wood

and composition. She is the Florodora who was made with inset fur eyebrows, sort of a novelty these above her sleeping dark brown eyes. Some perfectionist owner had made Flora D. a Gibson girl lace shirtwaist, flounced taffeta skirt, trimmed undies and produced a hat of velvet, chip straw, maline and a plume! She's definitely quite a gay nineties gal, No. A941, \$27.50.

Twenty inch tall "Christmas Fairy" came to Kimport wearing a full length white robe of the most fascinating old lace, patterned with berries, flowers, passion flower (I think!) and little crowns of thorns surrounding the letters I.H.S.—all of this on the finest net ground. All white lace is at least 20 inches wide and measures 60 inches at the daintily scalloped edge. Rarely do we put the robe before the doll, and there is certainly nothing wrong with "Fairy." Her 6 inch high bisque head by A.M. has lovely brown eyes that sleep, inset fur eyebrows, human hair wig of extra long, dark brown curls. There is a fillet of tarnished tinsel through her hair, matching the Christmas edging on the very full butterfly sleeves. Bisque arms, kid leather body, all original. No. A980, \$28.00.

Another Simon and Halbig, a truly beautiful child, 18 inches, with chubby, fully jointed kid body and 5 inch head. Sleeping brown eyes, pierced ears, modeled brows, and teeth of the bisque (but glazed) that come down to the lower lip—a very pretty mouth. Bisque forearms are jointed at the elbow; one broken little finger. Original, blond curls and, we think, precious old school girl clothes. She'd do with some freshening up, but the lined, circular skirt of

check silk, velveteen blouse in mustard color—they're all well worth an hour or so of time. These good old wigs do respond to a naptha and cleaner bath, or even a sudsing with Ivory Snow may work wonders—free advice! Dolly wears panties that button onto a panty waist—old pink slippers, but over the fanciest black lace stockings, and on her purple velvet bonnet there's ostrich, but even so, these all add up to a quaint, old-fashioned picture. No. A979, S & H, price \$30.00.

Now for a half dozen smaller, play size bisques. Two are dated.

Ten inch A.M., "Born" 1894, has swivel head with sleeping blue eyes, old mohair wig and nice little body of wood and composition that even has swivel wrists. Proper old clothes, even to china buttons with three holes. No. A938, \$15.00.

Incised 1900 on her shoulders, along with the A.M. horseshoe mark, this pretty blond child has bisque hands and a plump, clean kid leather body. Fifty-nine year old store clothes consist of those black, open work hose, pink muslin frock trimmed in cotton lace over blue—to match her eyes. Twelve and a half inches tall, No. A933, \$17.50.

Seventeen inch "P.M." marked bisque head tot with sleeping blue eyes, wide open mouth, showing two only top teeth above her little red tongue. "Peggy M.'s" late owner had re-strung and re-enameled her wood and composition body, added a new wig—but the white voile frock with it's 1890's yoke and bertha is old and becoming. No. A968, \$16.50.

Littlest of the lot this time is 6 inch "Prize Baby"—so it says

on her original box. Pat. 1914, she isn't a baby, but a good quality, all bisque little girl with curly brown wig, inset glass eyes and closed mouth. Jointed at hips and shoulders; strap slippers are modeled with heels; nicely dressed. No. A790, \$12.50 in her box.

Two Kestners, pretty, oh, "Katy," 12½ inches tall is pale pink complexioned; sleeping blue eyes, tiny opening line under her bisque teeth; height of head, 3½ inches. Her jointed kid body, very clean, has on the chest that impressive crown marking of Royal Kestner. Original, blond wig and cupped bisque hands. From the days when nice little girls wore China silk, Katy Kestner has beautifully hand-made panties and petticoat with blue striped frock of the same type old silk. Pink lace cap and stockings—only one pink slipper, No A1, \$17.50.

A really choice collector item is the beautifully formed, all bisque character baby with his darling infant body as perfect as is the quizzical, boyish looking baby head. Nine inch size, although with those curled up, dimpled legs, it's a bit unfair, as he sits about 6½ inches tall. There's the Kestner crown on his chest; such life-like hands—and feet, with nails well marked and of course, more dimples. Swivel neck, set blue eyes, wisps of modeled hair, two lower teeth that any bisque mamma—oh, about 20 or 22 inches tall would adore. Undressed, absolutely perfect, and yes, on the expensive side. No. A666, \$65.00.

Twenty-six inch "Lillian Russell" is a luscious blond with eyelashes, (too long to be natural!) that sweep down over the painted lashes when she sleeps; very large, brown eyes, fur, set into bisque,

brows. Kid body of the nice old type where the jointed composition arms go through it at the shoulder. Ornately decked out in the plumes to petticoats finery of her day—she even carries a two inch gold mesh bag. BUT—this is not all. There is a key at the back of her waist-line that winds the tinkliest, sweet tune up under Lillian's heart. 'Just have to watch that it doesn't unwind into her long lace collar. No. A856, \$100.00.



MRS. RUBY SHORT MCKIM

The Independence, Missouri Examiner for January 29, 1959, had a rather long story about our Doll Talk Editor. We cut and quote:

"Mrs. Ruby Short McKim is listed in the first edition of 'Who's Who of American Women,' released by the A.N. Marquis Co., Chicago. It is the same firm that prepares 'Who's Who in America.'

"Mrs. McKim has achieved nation-wide attention through her magazine articles and syndicated columns in newspapers on arts and crafts, and for 'Doll Talk' magazine now in its twenty-second year. She was graduated from the old Independence High School and from the Parsons School of Fine and Applied Arts in New York City. Her first work was as art supervisor in the Independence schools and later in the Kansas City school system.

"For a number of years she conducted an arts and crafts department for Better Homes and Gardens magazine and was a staff writer for Child Life Magazine. McKim Studios copyrighted and sold '101 Patchwork Quilt Patterns,' a book which brought considerable nation-wide attention.

"For many years Mrs. McKim and her husband operated the McKim Studios next door to their home. They began the business of importing dolls in 1931, following a trip to Europe, and the name, Kimport Dolls, is recognized wherever doll lovers gather. This business is now operated by the couple's son, Kim McKim."

NOT A QUICK TRICK

Miss Blanche Reeves appreciates quality and beauty, both in her dolls and in the clothing they wear. This description might inspire someone to do a layette as 'twas made some eighty years ago.

"On my largest Bye-Lo, I have a very long christening gown and slip, made in Ontario about 1878. Twenty-four buttons and button-holes go down the open back of this elaborate, fifty-two inch long dress. Fine muslin was tucked, then cut in bias strips to finish

about one inch wide, these being used alternately with embroidery insertion to make a spreading panel down front of dress. This with lovely old embroidery rufflings complete an outfit that must have been not only a work of art, but a labor of love."

NOTHING AHEAD OF "FIRST"

Kimport feels rightfully proud of this friendship stated so briefly but remarkably by Mrs. Fearn Brown of California. Sending in her Doll Talk renewal, she wrote:

"I have thoroughly enjoyed and got much information and pleasure from each issue, and I started with the first number! I always depend on you telling me when my new subscription is due."



Q. Were some pink luster doll heads painted with a layer of gold underneath? I have heard so.

A. That is a new one to us and I'd be inclined to doubt it, as dating 'way back to my own china painting days, gold and oxides were tricky in firing; 'never heard of using them vitreously as an undercoat.

Q. How can I safely launder very fragile, but very grimy old doll clothes?

A. Good Question—Well, a warm suds of Ivory Snow or some other satisfactorily proven cleanser is what we use. Old laces we soak and shake in a fruit jar or try putting the frail old materials into one of those nylon net bags during

their bath in a bowl. Ironing can be even trickier than washing, so watch both the temperature and probing point of your flat iron!

CLOTHES AND COPYRIGHTS

It was Blanche Reeves of California who got "Baby Brown Eyes" from the last D.T. offerings, and "greatly pleased" she was! "Touched," too, said she, at the exquisite handwork which some mother had done on its beautiful garments for a little daughter of, oh about 1912.

"I think some may not appreciate these K & R dolls. I bought one, thinking she was a much wanted Kestner, as, up under a tightly glued wig, appeared to be 'R. K.' To my amateur mind, this suggested Royal Kestner. Later, in Mrs. St. George's book, 'Old Dolls' (a treasure chest of information) I read her reference to Kammerer and Reinhart dolls (Kammer and Reinhardt, in Luella Hart's article on German marks.) In the above article, I learned that this company combined their parts with those of other companies, such as Simon-Halbig, as this lovely baby doll is marked."

FLASH

We have just received word from Luella Hart that her series of articles on the French doll patents will be run in the "Antiques Journal" magazine starting with the March issue. We know these articles will be authoritative and informative, so better be on the lookout for your forthcoming issues of "Antiques Journal."

"My little family of foreign dolls is growing. They are so quaint and colorful."—Leonora McKee, Illinois.

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

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Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.



Doll Book Review

LET'S ALL GET EXPERT

It is encouraging to note the interest collectors show in doll books. Many seem determined to have every authoritative volume and Kimport tries to stock them all. Some have been published in small editions and are already out of print as you ruefully know, which would seem to say: "Order now!" We are re-describing two books here and will gladly send our complete book list on your request.

GWEN WHITE'S "BOOK OF DOLLS"

This is an attractive 6 by 8, bound book of 108 pages, giving a comprehensive survey of the history and design of dolls down through the centuries, from 2000 B.C. to the present day. Miss White is a leading doll authority and the book is not only a study of dolls but of costume, styles and social life. There are six full colored plates and forty-five two color drawings, making it a de-

lightful book of examples as well as reference text. Printed in England, it has drawn freely on the famous British Museums including the Victoria and Albert. Titles and text are authentic and easy reading. Price, \$2.75.

THE GODEY LADY DOLL

Kimport much prefers selling dolls from the past, or colorful, new, foreign imports, but in deference to those who do want to try their own hand at making dolls, there is no finer source of information to supply than "The Godey Lady Doll," by Charlotte Eldridge. "Godey's Lady Book," under the direction of the renowned Sarah Josepha Hale, became the arbiter of American Women's Fashions and of their customs and morals during the mid-19th century. It was even called the "Victorian Bible of the Parlor." This book was the inspiration of Charlotte Eldridge in creating dolls that reproduce the Godey fashions of a century ago, and now she has written this book about them. It is principally a how-to-do-it manual, but it includes settings and doll furniture as well as the dolls and their costumes. The handsome bound book is 8 by 11 inches with 200 pages. There are dozens of illustrations, including fifteen dress patterns and twenty-two scale drawings of miniature furniture. Price, \$4.95.

INDEED NO HIBERNATION!

After we had written our book review article offering Mrs. Thorne's book, we got the following letter—a sort of further recommendation, from Mrs. Gertrude Quandt:

"The main reason for my seeming hibernation is not the Wisconsin winter, but the fact that I ran out of room to properly display

any more dolls—however, **now**, I am to have two glass cabinets (very modern) and I hope to get the dolls I have put away in boxes out where they may be enjoyed."

"I had the good fortune, about eight or ten years ago, of seeing some of Mrs. Thorne's miniature rooms at the Art Museum of Chicago, and to put it mildly, I was charmed. The little rooms were exquisite and you got the impression the occupants had just stepped out! They were displayed along the walls and one end of a darkened room—these little lighted cubicles were all the illumination there was—one walked along a raised walk and looked in each room in turn. I was entranced and it's fortunate I ever got out at all!"

PROPERLY HONORED

"For us, here in Mentor, this has been the year of the dolls' houses. In the spring I brought thirteen from their hiding places, and all summer I have been enjoying them, pretending, of course, that they are only out because little Jan, who is four, enjoys them.

"They are all old, and the miniatures that fill them are a joy; some tiny paintings are done by friends; many of the furnishings are mementoes of wonderful trips to New England; a tiny whatnot, a footstool, chair, and an oval 'stand' with the little drawer, were all made for me, years ago, by my father.

"I seem to love all old dolls and for that reason, I haven't been nearly discriminating enough to be a proper collector. Twenty-one years ago when we bought this house, I then had three thousand, and have added many dolls, plus toys, plus old Valentines in the

intervening years. Some of my minor collections are, whistles, tops, marbles and old baby rattles, besides old children's books and paper dolls. This may sound like a pack rat's collection, but actually everything fits into a pattern of collecting sentimentality. All are items children loved."

—Janice M. Ahlstrom

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"I am just thrilled with my doll pin which I will wear on my coat. I certainly think it is different."

—Frances Rochlitz, Illinois

"My doll collection does much to add to the attraction of my home, I think. My brother bought new modern book shelves so the ones passed along for my dolls are grand, with a bottom shelf large enough for fifteen inch sizes."

—Freda Webb, Calif.

"Whenever a package comes packed with newspapers, I take time out to scan through them for interesting ads, etc. Your Independence Examiner supplied this for my files, under 'Twenty Years Ago Today', Miss Betty McKim was leaving for the West Coast doll shows."

—Ada B. Odenrider, Wash.

"The dolls on their new stands look so nice standing on the shelves of an old ash cupboard that I refinished for them. Thank you, and—Please—more doll primers!" —Mrs. Madonna Gossa, Ind.

"The Roumanian man is cute as can be. No wonder I always look forward to my Doll of the Month."

—Louise Hanan, Calif.

"If I didn't want her, I could return, couldn't I? You are so darned honest about defects that you scare folks off sometimes?"

—Angela Peterson, Ohio

"I saw a Matreshka which belonged to a lady whose husband had made a goodwill trip to Russia. 'Have wanted one ever since, so, delighted to send for a real one.'"

—Margaret Hahn, Ind.

"As to the aggressive looking little 'Pickanin' doll—I kept him myself; named him Willie Mays, my mascot for the S.F. Giants!"

—Gladys Thomason, Calif.

"First I want to report that you have a new customer, my new baby daughter, just one month old. Our two wonderful sons have always been thrilled over my doll collection and now we have a girl to share them with. Don't you think we should start 'Colleen Marie's' collection with a good Irish doll?"

—Mrs. H. J. Thompson, Calif.

"Please pardon a proud 'doller', but I must mention that the stand here ordered is for a lovely, 28 inch brown eyed china. I feel you will understand my pleasure in owning her and in wanting her to pose 100% properly."

—Helene Golding, Texas

"Doll Talk has already become a habit with me, one to which I'll probably always remain addicted."

—Malacha Cobb, Utah

"I was so surprised to get home today and find my package from Kimport had arrived, just six days after I had posted my letter. What wonderful service!"

—Eleanor Lar Rieu, Calif.

"I do enjoy 'Doll Talk' so much, as it keeps me in touch with interesting doll personalities.

—Cora Henderson, Wash.

THE MAGIC OF APPRECIATION

Mrs. V. D. Clark of San Francisco sent us this impressive little story:

"More often than not, the greatest happiness is derived from the smallest things. Mrs. Hal Arter rediscovered this truth recently while preparing a display for the San Francisco Recreation and Art Center. Her scene from Alice in Wonderland created in wax, was a mecca for visitors there during the Christmas season. Sally Arter, who has received many awards for her unique, hand-made wax dolls, naturally ran into numerous difficulties during the preparation of this pretentious exhibit. During the most trying period of this lay-out, an acquaintance, accompanied by a blind friend, dropped in to view the progress. As Mrs. Arter was explaining the nature of the display for the benefit of the blind woman, she discerned a mounting excitement in the facial expression of her guest. Finally the blind lady asked if she might hold one of the dolls. Since all sightless people depend on their highly developed sense of touch, Mrs. Arter overlooked the firm tabu among doll exhibitors—that of handling dolls—gladly granting the visitor's request. As she watched her guest mentally picture it through her finger tips, Sally became aware that the day's set-backs in her arrangement had been less than nothing, granting that she has yet to receive any reward as great as the pleasure on that woman's face while handling and recreating this doll in her mind's eye."

DOLL PRIMER: Do You Have A Simon - Halbig?

The pedigrees of German bisque doll makers are so intertwined that they even confuse the experts. Just one head may show a string of numbers, several incised names and initials until you couldn't tell which company was who. One fact, however, remains undisputed: the Germans from 1850 to 1914 were prodigious doll makers, and in their field, dominated the Continent and the U.S. as well. For a few decades in France, Bru and Jumeau and other fine manufacturers, riding the anti-German tide of 1870, created dolls of such rare beauty that they are most sought by collectors even today, while the appellation "play doll" still clings to the German mass-produced bisques of the same period, which are only recently coming into proper appreciation.

In the puzzle of markings, one name perhaps shows up more frequently than any other; that is "S & H, Simon and Halbig." It may be in combination with "K & R," with a six-pointed star; it could be grouped with the word "Handwerck" or "Heinrich Handwerck," or carry joint names of others yet. Sometimes the origin, "Germany," is included and perhaps a "300" and a "6" or such numbers. Since this seems a typical manufacturer of the period, perhaps it's story will serve for the rest.

As Mr. Fred Kolb, an authority on commercial German dolls so kindly explained to Janet Johl, "Simon & Halbig, S & H," was one of the most important manufacturers of doll heads, being located at Graefenhain, Thuringia, in the very center of the German doll industry. They began well before 1891, when doll making was a cottage industry and continued at least into the 1930 period. They made no complete dolls but supplied heads on order to manufacturers such as "Heinrich Handwerck," "K & R, Kammer and Reinhardt," "C. M. Bergman" and others. Hence the combination of names incised on each head. If it included the name "Germany" you may assume the doll was made after 1891 for that's when U. S. tariff laws required marking the country of origin. The numbers would indicate model and size, and D. E. P. or D. R. G. M. would have reference to it's German patent. You can have a delightful time deciphering the symbols and since many German dolls are still within pocket-book reach, you may decide to build up a choice little selection ahead of the crowd.

"S & H" heads ranged from tiny to very large; white, black, brown, yellow; cheap enough to capture chain stores or fine enough to compete with France. You can apply your own tested criteria in evaluating them. Dainty tints, smooth finish, closed mouths, variation from standard; these all step up values. While "S & H" had famous contemporaries besides those mentioned, such as Heubach, Armand Marseille and J. D. Kestner, each would be another story.

KIMPORT DOLLS, P. O. BOX 495
INDEPENDENCE, MO.